

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01999 142121Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /039 W
-----142139Z 029048 /72-70

O 142055Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 538
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1999

FROM AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE
TODMAN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT BRAY, AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR ZIMMERMANN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, PFOR, BR
SUBJ: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY MASCIMENTO BRITO, EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT, JORNAL DO BRASIL

SUMMARY: M.F. NASCIMENTO BRITO, PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER
OF JORNAL DO BRASIL, HOPES FOR CONTACTS WITH US OFFICIALS
DURING VISIT HE WILL MAKE TO WASHINGTON STARTING MARCH 18.
BRITO'S PAPER IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE GOVERNMENT PRESSURE
FOR ITS INDEPENDENT EDITORIAL LINE.
BRITO HAS SOME USEFUL INSIGHTS ON PRESENT
SITUATION, WHICH HE SEES AS SIGNIFICANTLY
INFLUENCED BY INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS, AND WE RECOMMEND
THAT HE BE RECEIVED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE BUREAU AND, IF
POSSIBLE, BY ONE OF THE SEVENTH FLOOR PRINCIPALS. END
SUMMARY.

1. BRITO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL
WHICH ALONG WITH O GLOBO AND O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IS
ONE OF BIG THREE OF BRAZILIAN JORNALISM, PLANS TO VISIT
WASHINGTON MARCH 18 AND MARCH 21-23. HE HAS TOLD US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 01999 142121Z

THAT HE WANTS TO "LISTEN TO" ANYONE IN WASHINGTON WHO
MIGHT LIKE TO GIVE HIM "ANY KIND OF BRIEFING."

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM CONGEN RIO, WHICH BRITO HAS
CONFIRMED TO ME, BRITO AND HIS PAPER ARE UNDER CONSIDERABLE
PRESSURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT NOW BECAUSE OF THE REGIME'S
GENERAL DISAPPROVAL OF JORNAL'S INDEPENDENT AND CRITICAL

EDITORIAL POLICY, ESPECIALLY ON SUCH ISSUES AS STATE CONTROL OF ECONOMY, PERSISTENT UNFAVORABLE REPORTING ON PETROBRAS AND ITS ADVOCACY OF A MULTI-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM. A PRECIPITATING FACTOR IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DISAPPROVAL WAS A JANUARY 17 EDITORIAL ON THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS FAVORABLE TO THE US POSITION AND WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WAS SEEN BY SOME OF THE MILITARY AS "TREASONOUS." BRITO HAS INFORMED US THAT THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT GEISEL HIMSELF, HAS MOVED AGAINST HIM BY SUSPENDING MOST ADVERTISING BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN JORNAL. IN ADDITION GOVERNMENT IS WITHHOLDING APPROVAL OF IMPORT PERMIT FOR NEW PRESS EQUIPMENT.

3. BRITO SAYS JORNAL IS ONLY PAPER NOW SUFFERING THIS TYPE RESTRICTION, THOUGH O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IS ALSO UNDER SOME PRESSURE. HE TOLD ME HE HAS ENTERED INTO A "MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT" AGAINST GOVERNMENT PRESSURES WITH JULIO MESQUITA, OWNER OF O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. BRITO IS CONFIDENT PAPER CAN SURVIVE UNLESS AUTHORITIES ESCALATE BY PRESSURE ON PRIVATE SECTOR TO WITHHOLD ADVERTISING. CURRENT RESTRICTIONS AFFECT ONLY ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF TOTAL JORNAL REVENUES.

4. BRITO REGARDS THIS UNPRECEDENTED ACTION AGAINST JORNAL AS SYMPTOM OF GENERAL SHIFT IN CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT CIRCLES TOWARD A MORE REPRESSIVE POLICY. HE THINKS DISTENSAO IS FINISHED, THAT THE COUNTRY (AND JORNAL) CANNOT EXPECT RELIEF FROM PRESENT TREND UNTIL AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 01999 142121Z

LEAST THE END OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO BOW TO GOVERNMENT PRESSURE BY MODIFYING BASIC EDITORIAL AND NEWS POLICY BUT FOR THE TIME BEING WILL MAKE A REALISTIC POLITICAL ADAPTATION BY REDUCING SOMEWHAT THE STRIDENCY OF EDITORIAL CRITICISM, AVOIDING UNNECESSARY PROVOCATIONS, AND GIVING A LITTLE MORE SPACE TO "GOOD" NEWS ABOUT GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.

5. DURING LUNCH WITH ME LAST WEEK, BRITO ALSO REVIEWED THE PRESENT SITUATION IN US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS. HE SAID HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT ATTITUDES IN BRASILIA, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO INTERNAL POLITICAL FACTORS, INCLUDING THE SUCCESSION QUESTION. HE IS VERY SENSITIVE TO WHAT HE SEES AS A GULF BETWEEN THE ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS PREVALENT ON ONE HAND IN BRASILIA AND ON OTHER HAND IN RIO AND SAO PAULO.

6. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL OF YOU, IF POSSIBLE, TALK TO BRITO AND GET FROM HIM IMPRESSIONS OF THE PRESENT

SITUATION HERE. IT WOULD BE ICING ON THE CAKE IF HE
WERE ALSO ABLE QUIETLY TO SEE ONE OF THE SEVENTH FLOOR
PRINCIPALS. I STRESS THAT HE IS NOT A REPORTER AND
DUURING THIS VISIT WILL NOT BE ACTING IN A NEWS-GATHERING
CAPACITY. EVEN SO THIS POINT OF THE REPORTABILITY
OR ATTRIBUTION OF THE CONVERSATIONS, OF COURSE, SHOULD BE
CAREFULLY PINNED DOWN BEFOREHAND AS I WOULD HOPE THE
TALKS WOULD BE OPEN AND FRANK ON BOTH SIDES.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL01999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0651
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770364/aaaaceck.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 448424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3122314
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY MASCIMENTO BRITO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, JORNAL DO BRASIL SUMMARY: M.F.
NASCIMENTO BRITO, PRINCIPAL EXECUTIV
TAGS: OTRA, PINT, PFOR, BR, (BRITO, MASCIMENTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/448424b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009